

REMARKS

We are pleased to note that the claims are apparently considered free of the prior art. We believe the present amendment overcomes the stated objections (p. 2) to the claims, and the indefiniteness rejections stated on pp. 5-9, and the provisional double patenting rejection is overcome by the enclosed terminal disclaimer.

1. Objections

Claims 82, 85 and 174 have been corrected.

2. Indefiniteness Issues

2.1. The "for example" phrase has been deleted from claim 5, and the equivalent "e.g." and "including" terminology from claim 12.

2.2. In response to the first criticism of claim 3, we have amended the claims as recommended by the examiner.

2.3. In response to the second criticism of claim 3, the correct interpretation is that of the first figure at p. 7 of the action. We have amended claim 3 to recite "reacting one or more chemical entities associated with different building block oligonucleotides, which are ligated and separated".

2.4. In response to the criticism of claims 3-5 on p. 8, we have adopted the examiner's suggestion of reciting "first molecule" rather than "molecule precursor".

2.5. The antecedent basis problem of claim 7 is corrected by making it dependent on claim 2.

2.6. Claim 9 has been clarified; in the last line it now refers to the identifier polynucleotide.

2.7. Claim 178 is dependent on claim 177, which is dependent on claim 176, which is dependent on 174. Thus, the additional synthesis round is carried out by re-applying the

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steps of base claim 174, this time to the amplified connector oligonucleotides or amplified connector oligonucleotide fragments.

We have numbered the steps in claim 174, and amended 178 to refer to the numbered steps.

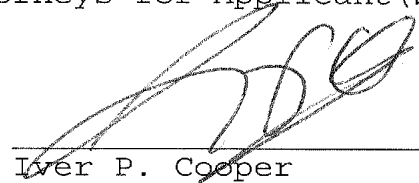
3. Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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